

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 68 are pending, with Claims 1, 41, 42, 51, 57 and 68 being independent. Claims 2, 5, and 12 have been amended. Claims 42 through 68 have been added. The specification has been amended.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached at (301) 428-7172. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

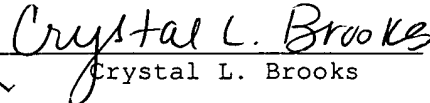
Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on: March 19, 1999.



Crystal L. Brooks